

OMNI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S COVID-19/OMICRON GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOL

The guidelines and protocols set forth in this document are designed to help OMNI International School and its constituents objectively navigate varying procedures as a result of the world pandemic due to COVID-19, Delta, Omicron (Eris, Pirola), and other variants. As a school, our main goal is the health and safety of each of our students and teachers and ultimately keeping our doors open to facilitate student learning.

(1) OMNI's guidelines are specific to OMNI International School and may not always align with other school's practices being that most primary schools do not also serve students Pk2-Pk4, and most preschools do not always serve elementary age students.

(2) OMNI's guidelines were established in consultation with labs, physicians, epidemiologists, and adapted in part from CDC guidelines although in some instances OMNI's guidelines may be stricter than the protocols mandated for the general public.

(3) OMNI's guidelines may change as new information aligning with best practices is learned, and should never supersede common sense practices where applicable.

WHAT MEASURES ARE CURRENTLY IN PLACE TO KEEP STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND VISITORS SAFE?

The school has resumed face-to-face learning in phases with restrictions limiting on campus visitors, groups and some large gatherings. We have gradually lifted some of these restrictions while appropriate to do so. Phase 1 requires firm restrictions by only permitting students and teachers in the building. Phase 2 requires a looser restriction and permits students, teachers, and vendors only. Other safety measures include using carpool for drop-off and pick-up; using touchless, mobile check-in stations, mandating health screenings for all students and staff upon arrival, i.e. temperature checks, pre-screening questions, etc., mandating masks for all students regardless of age when there is a risk of spread

from exposure, implementing hand sanitizing stations, cleaning and sanitizing with hospital-grade cleaning solutions throughout the building. Cleaning areas do not only include counters and tabletops, cots, desks, chairs, and cubbies, but include doorknobs, light switches, sink handles, children play areas, manipulatives and playground structures. The school provides child and adult sized masks but when mandated, students should arrive with their masks on each day and bring back-up masks in the event the initial mask is soiled with dirt, saliva, sweat, etc.

Students are currently eating lunch in the cafeteria at staggered times. The cafeteria is much bigger than the classroom and provides an opportunity for teachers to assist students in accessing their meals from their cubbies, warming meals, and setting appropriate boundaries pursuant to conversations while eating. Students have designated lunch seats with a maximum of four students to a table. Students are highly encouraged to prioritize mealtime by eating their lunch within the allotted time and limiting conversations while eating.

Additionally, as an extra precaution, Academy student nap mats and blankets are bagged and placed in the student's nap bag after each use. Cots are separated to maintain safe distances during naptime. Cots are sanitized and disinfected after each use. Students do not share toys with other groups unless they are washed and sanitized before being moved from one group to the other. Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized are not used.

CDC: Due to the circulating and highly contagious Omicron variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status for those at high risk when COVID-19 community levels are medium and for everyone when levels are high. Due to OMNI's population, direct contact with anyone exposed is considered high and indirect contact is considered medium.

CDC: Be sure the mask fits snugly over the nose and mouth and under the chin and that there are no gaps around the sides. Choose masks that have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric. Do not choose masks that are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl.

CDC: Many schools serve children under the age of 12. Vaccination is recommended for everyone ages 6 months and older in the United States for the prevention of COVID-19. There is currently no FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine for children younger than age 6 months. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes

implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together) to protect students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households, and to support in-person learning.

COVID vs Flu vs. Common Cold vs. RSV: What You Need to Know

| VIRUS | LEVEL OF INFECTIVITY | TIME FROM EXPOSURE TO INFECTION | SYMPTOMS | PREVALENCE IN CHILDREN | VACCINE AVAILABILITY |
|--|--|---------------------------------|---|--|--|
|  COMMON COLD <i>Rhinovirus</i> | Less contagious Symptomatic individuals shed the virus during the first 2 to 3 days of infection. | 2 to 3 days | Cough Low-grade fever Sneezing Sore throat Stuffy nose | Common Most children experience 2 to 4 colds per year; frequently associated with asthma exacerbations. | None |
|  SEASONAL INFLUENZA <i>Influenza virus (A and B)</i> | Contagious Viral shedding occurs 24 hours before symptoms appear, peaking around day 3 of illness. | 1 to 4 days | Body aches Chills Cough Fatigue Fever Headache Sore throat Stuffy nose | Common Children younger than 2 are at highest risk for more severe disease. | Multiple approved |
|  COVID-19 <i>Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)</i> | More contagious Viral shedding occurs 2 to 3 days before symptoms appear, peaking around day 3 of illness. However, there can be viral shedding without ever developing symptoms. | 2 to 14 days | Body aches Chills Cough Diarrhea Fatigue Fever Headache Loss of smell/taste Nausea/vomiting Shortness of breath Stuffy/runny nose | Becoming more common, and asymptomatic children are possible Typically children have mild symptoms, and rarely they develop multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) weeks after a SARS-CoV-2 infection. | Two- and three-dose vaccine approved for ages 6 months–4 years Two-dose vaccine and booster approved for ages 5 and older Multiple vaccines and boosters approved for adults |
|  RSV <i>Respiratory syncytial virus</i> | Very contagious Symptoms can last 7 to 10 days, but some kids can develop a cough that takes up to six weeks to clear | 4 to 6 days | Cough Runny nose Sneezing Fever Wheezing | Common Infants are at high risk for severe disease, including pneumonia or bronchiolitis, an inflammation of the small airways in the lungs. | None |

WHAT STEPS SHOULD PARENTS TAKE?

Parents must have on file a waiver releasing OMNI from claims or liability while students are on campus with an understanding that on campus learning does not mean students will not be at risk of infection from COVID or other viruses.

Although the school is making every effort to safeguard everyone in the school, there is no way to guarantee that students will be protected due to situations

beyond OMNI's control, such as who students or parents are exposed to off campus, immunocompromised students, parents who are not vaccinated and or do not routinely test.

Parents should prescreen students before arriving to campus. Parents must ensure students are not arriving to school with a fever or under medication for a fever, exhibiting respiratory symptoms including coughs, runny noses, shortness of breath, etc. Parents should determine with the support of a physician if a student has COVID, Flu, Cold, or RSV and develop a treatment plan. Parents must comply with the social distance measures put in place by the school and should be mindful of the risks inherent in large gatherings when away from the school. Parents may be required to submit a negative COVID PCR test result from a reputable lab.

WILL OMNI OFFER COVID TEST?

Due to changes in insurance policies and community availability of testing sites, OMNI no longer requires or offers weekly COVID-19 and Delta variant testing. Although testing weekly gave us an added layer of prevention and allowed us to safely remain open, the variations in policies made it difficult to mandate for everyone without accruing additional expenses. In the event, there is a significant uptick in COVID cases, OMNI will secure a 3rd party vendor to administer test, but this expense must be passed on to the parents. Parents should contact their insurance companies and learn more about coverage for COVID-19 and be prepared to revert back to frequent on campus testing.

WHAT TESTS ARE BEING USED?

OMNI will use the rapid test as a pre-screener to quickly isolate positive teachers. Parents are encouraged to use rapid test at home when it's safe to do so and to follow up with a PCR test, which can be administered via saliva, nasal nasopharyngeal (nose swab), or oropharyngeal (throat swab). PCR testing is considered the "gold standard" in SARS-CoV-2 detection. This test detects RNA (or genetic material) that is specific to the virus and can detect the virus within days of infection, even those who have no symptoms. Turnaround time is in as little as 24 hours. This particular PCR test can also test for the Delta variant and newly transmitted Omicron variant, unlike many others that test for COVID-19 only.

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE?

Positive results will result in individual, classroom and/or departmental quarantine up to 5 days (opposed to the initial 14 days) depending on the situation, i.e. whether primary exposure, a secondary exposure, a post-positive student, or other factors. A primary exposure is close contact- masked but less than 6 feet apart- with the affected member and a secondary exposure is casual contact- masked but more than 6 feet apart. The incubation period for COVID-19 is thought to extend up to 14 days, with a median time of 4-5 days from exposure to symptoms onset.

In the event an entire department is quarantined, i.e. all Academy students, all Upper school students, we will provide virtual learning for the duration of the quarantine period. If a child or group of children are being quarantined, students will take advantage of asynchronous learning and virtual streaming. Multiple positive cases across departments affecting community areas will require the school as a whole to quarantine for 5 days. The school as a whole will then revert to virtual learning for all students. School closings are determined by many factors and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

CDC: The CDC defines a “close contact” as “someone who was within six feet of an infected individual for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.”

CDC: Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms.

HOW LONG SHOULD MY CHILD QUARANTINE?

After testing positive, students should remain in quarantine whether they have symptoms or not for a minimum of 5 business days or 7 calendar days. Students in homes with parents or siblings who are not vaccinated may have to quarantine longer if exhibiting symptoms and run the risk of reinfection.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY TEST IS POSITIVE AFTER QUARANTINING?

A positive test generally means there is lingering protein from the virus, a new infection, or an infection of a new variant. It is also an indicator that the child has

not made a sufficient amount of antibodies and is still fighting an infection if the test is not false-positive. A student must have one (1) negative PCR test result to return to school opposed to the two required previously.

CDC: Antibodies are proteins created by your immune system that help you fight off infections. They are made after you have been infected or have been vaccinated against an infection.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY TEST IS NEGATIVE AFTER A POSITIVE RESULT? UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES WILL TWO POSITIVE RESULTS BE REQUIRED?

With the variation in lab processes, we would like to accept a negative result at face value and assume the person is negative. However, we have also seen where a false-negative was at play. When a student has lingering symptoms and intervals of fever, we will require students present two negative results after a positive result.

If you have a false-negative, but is still positive. The CDC says the following...

CDC: You could have a current infection, been recently infected, or been recently vaccinated. It typically takes 1 to 3 weeks after infection or vaccination for your body to make antibodies. If you are infected, you may get sick and spread the virus before you develop antibodies. Some people may take even longer to develop antibodies, and a small portion of people who are infected or vaccinated may never develop antibodies.

CDC: Sometimes people test negative for SARS-CoV-2 antibodies when they have those specific antibodies. This is called a false-negative.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS FOR RETURNING TO SCHOOL AFTER QUARANTING?

After a student and/or teacher quarantines for the recommended amount of time, he or she will test again. The student and/or teacher must be symptom free and submit a negative result to return to campus. Students and/or teachers should not take fever reducing medication or medication that will suppress symptoms for 24 hours before testing.

HOW MANY DAYS SHOULD I WAIT BEFORE TESTING AGAIN AFTER A POSITIVE RESULT?

After a positive student has been quarantined for 5 days, the student should test again. If the test is positive, the student should wait 3 calendar days before testing again. If the test is negative, the student may return to school. If the test is positive, the student should wait 3 calendar days before testing again.

WHAT ARE MY CHILD'S SCHOOL OPTIONS WHILE IN QUARANTINE?

Students in quarantine have access to classes via virtual streaming for the duration of their quarantine. Teachers will prepare materials to aid students in their studies. Digital access to all material from all classes are also available to each student. Teachers are required to record each session and upload the recordings to Dropbox. Parents can access these recorded videos at any time. In most instances, virtual classes are available, which means live streaming with teachers.

ARE SICK CHILDREN PENALIZED WHEN THEY CAN NOT ATTEND CLASS?

Students' grades are not affected while in quarantine. Students who are symptomatic and can not properly engage in class should prioritize their health and wellness through rest. Under these unusual circumstances, teachers will work collaboratively with students and parents to achieve their academic goals. One week of a 10 week reporting period can be substantial if there are no grades to report, however students can make-up assignments, quizzes, and tests after their recovery. At the teacher's discretion, an "N/A" may be assigned and a grade will not be required. This omission will not be counted towards the students' grade calculation.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A TEACHER IS POSITIVE?

If a teacher tests positive and has been at the school teaching during the time of his or her positive result, the teacher and all students exposed to the teacher will quarantine for the recommended amount of time (will vary) until a negative PCR test is produced, whether symptomatic or not. If the teacher is asymptomatic and able to, he or she will facilitate virtual lessons. If the teacher tests positive and did

not expose any students, students will attend class face to face with a substitute teacher.

CDC: Quarantine if you have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, unless you have been fully vaccinated. People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public following exposure. CDC recommends an individual who tests positive wear a mask until their test is negative. At OMNI, however, a student nor teacher may be on campus with a positive result.

WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES?

<https://www.yalemedicine.org/news/5-things-to-know-omicron>

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

<https://fultoncountyga.gov/covidvaccine>

<https://dph.georgia.gov/>